

Ask the U.S. Embassy

December 11, 2013

Question: *“My sister is a U.S. citizen and will be traveling to Jamaica to visit me for the holidays. Does she need to register her trip with the U.S. Embassy?”*

The U.S. Embassy strongly encourages all U.S. citizens traveling abroad to enroll with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.step.state.gov.

STEP is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows U.S. citizens to enter information about their upcoming trip or residence in Jamaica so that the U.S. Embassy can provide them with up-to-date information in the event of an emergency. The travel and contact information entered into STEP also makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy to contact the individual and their loved ones during an emergency.

To register for STEP, go to www.step.state.gov, click on the “Create an Account” link, and follow the instructions provided. Once an account is created, it is important to provide thorough information so that the U.S. Embassy can communicate and assist you effectively.

The U.S. Embassy would also like to remind everyone traveling for the holiday season to check the expiration of their passport before finalizing any travel plans. Passport appointments can be made online at <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/appointments.html>. Please remember that it takes eight to ten business days to receive your new passport and appointments fill up very quickly around busy travel seasons.

For additional information regarding services available to U.S. citizens abroad, please visit <http://kingston.usembassy.gov> or the www.travel.state.gov website.